



THE PHOENIX PRESS

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION - TROPIC LIGHTNING!

"OUR HISTORY AND OUR LEGACY"
BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

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In honor of Black History Month, the Soldiers of the 25th ID put on a skit, representing individuals including Cathy Williams, Eugene Bullard, Maya Angelou, Barack Obama, Bessie Coleman, Dr. Mae C. Jemison, Benjamin Davis, Mary Henrietta Graham, William Carney, Tuskegee Airman, Riley Pitts, Rosa Parks, and Colin Powell. All Soldiers that participated in the observance received a Certificate of Achievement for their outstanding performance.



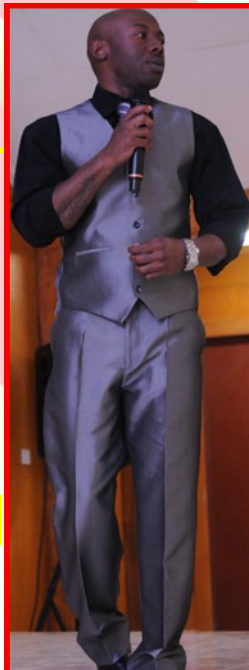
SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



SGT Christopher Lafser

SPC Christie Adams

NCO & SOLDIER
OF THE MONTH



IRAQ GREAT



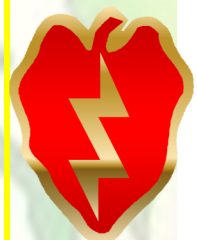
RUN



Aloha to CSM Leota



Mahalo and safe travels to CSM Frank Leota, who is moving on back to Hawaii to assume his new assignment as USARPAC command sergeant major. Mahalo for nearly seven years of leadership and four deployments with the Tropic Lightning Division

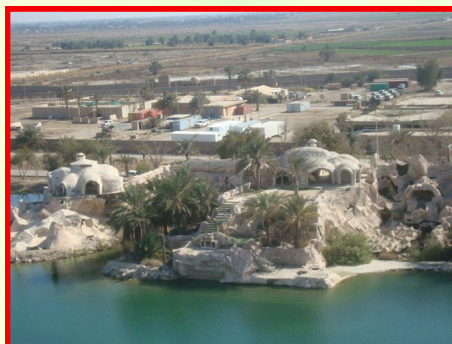


THUNDER

Another month has flown by for us here in Iraq. Our daily mission requirements here keep us busy. Morale is high as Soldiers love the opportunity to focus on a challenging and productive mission. A new opportunity for Soldiers has arisen in the form of a tour here on the base of the "Victory Over America" palace that Saddam Hussein had built after the first Gulf War. The massive hole in the ceiling from a 2000 lb bomb is an impressive sight to see. Also, there is a full replica of the Flintstone Village (yes just like the one from the cartoon!!) that Saddam had built for his children. The weather is starting to warm up and it will get much warmer over the next few months. HSC is conducting a variety of training to ensure your Soldiers are safe and well-cared for. There's a lot of work to do in preparation for the eventual transfer of authority to the Iraqi government, but HSC Soldiers are prepared to accomplish the historic mission.

TROPIC THUNDER!!!!!!!!!!

-CPT Townsend



It is a real honor being the Operations Company 1SG. I have an outstanding HQ support team and a very hard working company. Of the five other Companies, I think Operations Company will prove to be the most challenging while giving me the opportunity to do what I do best "LEAD". So I would like to thank all the Soldiers of Operation Company for all their hard work as we write a new chapter in the GREAT Legacy of the 25th ID Operations Company. I promise to do my best to bring all the Soldiers back home safely.

TEAM



-1SG Jones



CPT Schnurr passing the coveted NCO sword to 1SG Jones, as he assumes the responsibilities of Operations Company First Sergeant, 7 FEB 11.

SGM Jesse Battes

GRIFFIN

The month of February brings Valentine's Day, as most Soldiers here in theater will feel sad being away from their loved ones. I encouraged all Soldiers to call home on this special day to make sure that just because you are thousands of miles away, the distance will not diminish your love for them.

The Tropic Lightning Division kicks off the "Lightning Academy" this month as well, which consists of two weeks (12-days) of training focused on developing leadership skills in our junior leaders of SPC, CPL and SGT. The training will also be focused on skill level pertinent to the Section/Team Leader arena. Success is defined as developing competent, confident and agile leaders, while providing those critical tools required to succeed in today's Army. This type of training should provide that and give our Soldiers every opportunity to excel.

-SGM Rayon Huges



**Lightning Hero
SPC Eric Wilson**



SGM Rayon Huges

DRAGON

Aloha Dragon Families!

One thought as you read this...we are already three months into this Deployment! There is no doubt that these days are whizzing by us. I recognize that this is the time in any deployment where we all start feeling the deployment blues set in. To lift your Spirits, just think, as each day, week, and month goes by, we get closer and closer to each other. Also, we start Environmental Morale Leave (formerly R&R) this month! (Whoo-hoo!) We continue to accomplish our ongoing mission, train, and prepare for events that lead us back home. Most importantly, we take care of our Soldiers. Understand that our Soldiers are doing more than their share to serve our Country. As we progress through the rest of the deployment, we are expected to do more with less. You all should be proud of the work our Soldiers do. We ask a lot from them, in turn we ask a lot from you. Keep up the support! We feel it every single day. As the days get warmer, we can imagine the big blue ocean that goes with all this sand! With that thought, continue to send the Aloha Spirit this way!

Mahalo!

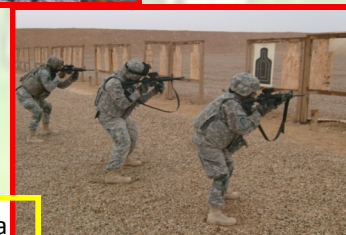
Sincerely, CPT Jerrold Dwayne Castro and 1SG Catalina Lacuesta



Combined HUB Soldiers pose with the 25th Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major, CSM Leota



MSG Day instructs SPC Brown from 2/1 AAB on Blue Force Tracker tasks during the Division Lightning Academy



SGT Shapiro, PFC Cannon, PFC Ybarra participating in reflexive fire

From First Sergeant's Desk,
Greetings from the desert. The band is doing well and performing many missions on Victory Base Compound (VBC) and off post. The Lightning Jazz Project has been building their weekly audience at the Camp Victory PX Food Court Lunch Hour. Show of Force just performed the Farewell Run for Task Force Phantom. In addition, the Sounds of Freedom Brass Quintet and the Tropic Lightning Brass Band have both performed at the Australian, United Nations and United States Embassies in the Baghdad International Zone. Also, seeing how it is February, I would like to wish all the spouse, significant others and family members back in the states a Happy Valentine's Day especially to my loving wife and kids. As you'll see SSG David took some pictures of some of the Bandsmen holding Valentine's Day hearts for their family and loved ones. Aloha!

-1SG Sonnen



EVENTS CALENDAR

Mar 2 –TSP and Retirement –0900 -1030 at ACS

Mar 2 –Managing your Checking Account –1030 -1200 at ACS

Mar 3 –Signal FRG Book Club Meeting –Location TBD

Mar 7 –BN Steering Meeting–1800 -2000 at BN Conference Room

Mar 8 –Band Meeting –1800 -2000 at Kalakaua Community Center

Mar 9 –Money Management –0900 -1030 at ACS

Mar 15 –FRG Boot Camp -0900 -1330 at ACS SB

Mar 16 –All About Credit –0900 -1030 at ACS

Mar 17-19 –Strong Bonds Retreat –(Contact SGT Ashley 655-0149)

Mar 19 –CRT Training –0900 -1230 (Contact Lessa Otero 656-1220)

Mar 22–Teambuilding (FRSA/CDRS/FRG Leaders Forum) –0900 -1100 at ACS

Mar 23 –Money Harmony –0900 -1030 at ACS

Mar 23 –Advance Investing –1030 -1200 at ACS

Mar 28 –I&S FRG Meeting –1800 -2000 at BN Conference Room

Mar 29 –Division Volunteer Award Ceremony-Post Conference Rm-1000

Mar 30 –Secrets of Car Buying –0900 -1100 at ACS

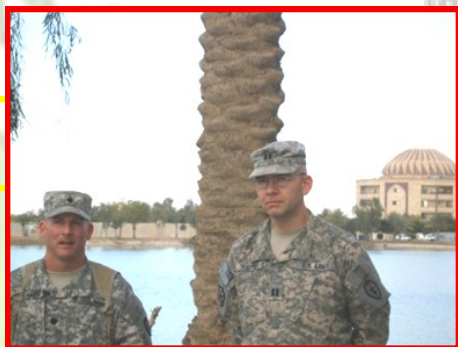
SHOP TALK

DIVISION SURGEON



On 26 January 2011 LTC Thomas Eccles and SGM Robert Rembert traveled to Camp Ali in Ar Ramadi to observe training conducted by 4/3 AAB medical team led by CPT Roarty (4/3 AAB Brigade Surgeon) for 21 Iraqi medical interns in trauma medical care. While the visit was to observe, the Division surgeon and SGM got their hands dirty in the training as well. The course consisted of several classes on abdominal, pelvic, head and spinal cord trauma. The lectures were followed with hands-on practical application and concluded with each participant receiving a certificate of training. The two day course met two main objectives: strengthening the Iraqis, with new doctors receiving additional training and capacity building by giving Iraqi personnel additional skill sets they can share with other medical colleagues.

LTC Stephen Inananen
CPT Kevin Lester



RETENTION

Greetings from Camp Liberty Iraq! Retention for USD-C has been very busy monitoring and managing the retention program for United States Division-Center (USD-C) and 25th Infantry Division (ID). With the current rate of retention, we have been processing numerous reenlistments and actions for Soldiers within our area of operation. These actions consist of reenlistments, extensions, reclassifications, transitions into the Reserve Component and implementation of the new MOS Administrative Retention Review Program that will go into effect Army wide on 1 April 2010 and will replace the current MMRB. Commanders, Senior NCOs, and all retention personnel have been receiving briefing explaining the new program and how it will affect their units and what retention personnel will have to do in order to process the action to Human Resources Command (HRC).

- MSG Luis E. Montanez



Comments or feedback please contact:
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